

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council,

May 6, 2010

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor Higgins and Councilors Adams, Carney,
LaBarge, Narkewicz, Schwartz, and Spector

Resolution of the City of Northampton to Bring the War Dollars Home

WHEREAS, the financial resources available for use by governments at the local, county, state and federal levels in the United States are limited; and

WHEREAS, an inordinate level of military expenditure is being made by the U.S. federal government for warfare in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, the people of Northampton, Massachusetts are collectively paying or becoming indebted for \$111.7 million in total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, not including additional funds being requested this year (National Priorities Project), of their limited financial resources for such warfare; and

WHEREAS, this warfare creates great and unnecessary harm to the people of the nations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and to U.S. military personnel and their families; and

WHEREAS, the education services, medical care, housing, other essential public services, infrastructure repairs, and family and private sector financing in Northampton and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been substantially reduced in order for an excessive portion of available financial resources to be diverted from the constructive economy to unnecessary warfare;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

The City of Northampton will sponsor public discussion about the cost of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan/Pakistan to our community for education, transportation, security and basic citizen needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The City of Northampton calls on Representative Richard Neal and Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown to:

1. Oppose all legislation brought before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate that provides further funding of the U.S. warfare and U.S. military occupation in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan while supporting funds for reconstruction, and
2. Take strong and forceful action to influence the full U.S. House of Representatives to terminate funding of these military operations, and
3. Sign onto and support resolutions that prohibit any increase in the number of troops in Afghanistan (House Resolution 3699).